

U.S. Congressman Mike Pence gave the following speech from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in honor of the late John W. Fisher, who passed away last week:

"Madame Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, to pay tribute to a friend and to the memory of a great man who will long be remembered across the state of Indiana as a civic leader and a philanthropist whose impact will be felt for generations.

"For decades, John W. Fisher has been a leader in the business community of Eastern Indiana. Remembered by many as a 'giant of industry,' John will be greatly missed not only by his family, but all of those whose lives he touched.

"A native of Walland, Tennessee, John was known for his athleticism, and was an All-American. He graduated a Volunteer from the University of Tennessee in 1938, but it was his connection to the Ball family that brought him to Muncie, Indiana.

"Married to his beloved Janice, John did not plan to live in Muncie; rather he had always thought he would eventually settle in his native Tennessee. However, he was convinced to take a more active role in the Ball Corporation by his brother-in-law Edmund, one of the founding brothers of that company. By then John had earned an MBA from the Harvard Graduate School of Business and with a keen business intellect, he quickly became a prominent figure in the Muncie business community, and all across our state.

"While serving in various capacities for Ball Corporation, John W. Fisher distinguished himself as a risk-taker. Richard Ringoen, former Ball Corporation President noted John's performance once saying: 'This company has grown because John Fisher was willing to take calculated risks. He has been willing to immerse himself in details that a lot of chief executives would avoid.'

"John was elected to serve as a corporate vice president in 1963, and by 1970, was named president and CEO of Ball Corporation. By the time he retired as Chairman of the Board in 1986, Ball Corporation had experienced a period of rapid growth, significant diversification of its products, and thanks to John Fisher's leadership, that year Ball Corporation's annual sales exceeded \$1 billion.

"Retirement would not mark the end of his civic contributions to the community or his entrepreneurial spirit. Until his death, John W. Fisher served as chairman of the Cardinal Health System, a trustee of DePauw University, director and former president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, life director of the National Association of Manufacturers, and a benefactor and booster of Ball State University.

"Never one to let a good business opportunity pass by, John relied on his experience and remarkable insight to become involved in one project after another.

"When asked about his approach to business, John said: 'I take major risks. I don't hesitate to take a very careful look at fresh ideas, especially when capable people are associated with the idea.'

"It is with that entrepreneurial spirit that led John to become involved in all kinds of different businesses. From furniture companies to fish farms and many things in between, John Fisher simply seized life with both hands.

"Madame Speaker, John Fisher will be renowned for his business acumen, but also remembered by friends and colleagues and those close to him as a kind-hearted man with a deep commitment to the community.

"The Fishers donated millions of dollars to Ball State University, establishing the John and Janice Fisher Chair in Exercise Science and created the Fisher Distinguished Professorship in Wellness and Gerontology. Until his passing, John served on the national campaign committee for Ball State Bold: Investing in the Future, which is the university's fundraising campaign.

"Upon learning of his passing, the President of Ball State said that John Fisher's commitment to Ball State University had been 'unequaled in the university's 90-year history.'"

"More recently, to honor his service, Ball Memorial Hospital dedicated the John W. Fisher Heart Center in January of 2009.

"Now many will remember John W. Fisher for these business undertakings and the rest, but I will always remember him as a dear friend and a mentor.

"I first met John Fisher back in 1988 when I entered public life. Since that time, our relationship has been a continuous source of wisdom and guidance for me.

"Though he had no political ambitions for himself, he had a lifelong interest in public affairs and was keenly aware of the issues facing the country. He was an active participant at the Muncie Rotary and every time I showed up there, he always had a good question to ask in public. But I'll most cherish the privilege of having spent innumerable occasions sitting in John's office and learning from him about the world and business and public life and drawing on his wisdom, his faith and his integrity. John Fisher shaped my life and my career in countless ways.

"John W. Fisher personified everything that is great about the United States of America. He was a strong, principled leader, a generous philanthropist, a devoted family man, and was always willing to take a stand for what he believed in.

"Blessed with a wonderful family, John Fisher is survived by his wife Janice, their seven children, 19 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren. The Bible tells us that 'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted,' and so is my prayer for his extended family and his community of friends today.

"Madame Speaker, one of my favorite John Fisher quotes is: 'Ride hard, shoot straight, tell the truth and be good to your fellow man.' And that is how John W. Fisher spent his

93 years on this Earth.

"Indiana lost a giant and, in John W. Fisher, I lost a friend; it has been my privilege to pay tribute to him on the floor of the House this evening."

NOTE:

Audio of the speech is available [HERE](#) .